

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

The Ministry of the Interior Building

1. Newly arrested political prisoners are detained and interrogated in the cellar of the right wing of the Ministry of the Interior. When first brought into the Ministry and when taken to interrogations, prisoners are made to wear dark glasses. They are interrogated immediately before coming into contact with other prisoners. 25X1
2. In the cellar there are twenty 2.5 by 4 meter cells, twenty larger cells measuring 3.5 by 4.5 meters, and some small solitary cells for recalcitrant prisoners. In 1951 there were 100 prisoners held on political charges in the cellar of the Ministry building. There was no contact between the cells.
3. Five prison guards patrolled the corridor in seven hour shifts. Their rotation was supervised by a warrant officer or a second lieutenant. The patrol force consisted of one duty officer, with the remainder all army corporals or sergeants in Securitate uniforms. 25X1
4. Interrogations were conducted for several hours, day or night, over a several month period on the fourth floor of the Ministry building. Each prisoner had two interrogators who were dressed either in mgti or Securitate uniforms. In 1951 many confessions were extorted by force. Frequently prisoners were left alone for long periods of time prior to reinterrogation or transfer to other prisons.
5. The diet consisted of 300 grams of bread, a kind of porridge (terci, made of rice) and tea for breakfast, and soup and either potatoes or cabbage for lunch and dinner.
6. Letters and visitors were prohibited.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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The Malmaison Prison

7. The Malmaison prison is located on the Calea Plevnei, about two kilometers from the Bucharest side of the Podul Isvor bridge. The prison consists of two buildings, of which the second was completed in the fall of 1951. Opposite the prison there are apartment buildings and a photography shop, while on either side there are cottages and military barracks.
8. The older prison building, which faces Calea Plevnei, is a single storied edifice about 60 meters long. It has two rows of cells, numbered 1 - 49. Each cell accommodates two inmates in an area five meters square.
9. The second building, consisting of a half-basement and an upper story, houses 40 cells. The interrogation rooms, which are situated on the upper story, have double doors and are completely sound-proof.
10. In the older building two sentries patrolled the hall, while sentries were stationed at each end of the corridor. The sentry schedule was identical with that in the Ministry of Interior building. Guards always went in twos, unarmed, to cells to speak with or escort prisoners.
11. An electric light was kept on all night in the cells. After reveille at 6 a.m., prisoners were forbidden to sit or lay on their beds. They were escorted individually to the washrooms so that they never encountered other prisoners. The diet was identical with that in the Ministry building.
12. The cell doors of the new building were made of light, thin wood with simple locks that could have easily been broken. Above the doors there were large windows covered with chicken wire.
13. The inmates under guard were permitted to take short walks individually in the courtyard.
14. During 1952 all the Malmaison prisoners were held on political charges and were either undergoing interrogation or awaiting trial, although some had been tried in absentia. The original interrogators continued to examine the prisoners at Malmaison. No cases of torture were known in 1952.

The Jilava Prison

15. The prison near Jilava consists of an old round fort, called Reduite, and two one-story brick buildings. There are also two separate courtyards, containing a kitchen and some small sheds, which are surrounded by wooden fences.
16. During the winter of 1952-53 there were approximately 2,000 political prisoners at Jilava. Although some of them were war criminals, most of them were held there without trial or had been tried in absentia.
17. The two buildings had a total capacity of 640 inmates, with 20 in each of 32 cells. The cells, which measured approximately 5 by 5 meters, had two rows of double decker beds, a small water bucket, a washstand and a waste basket. The inmates under guard were taken for individual walks in the courtyard once a week or fortnight.
18. Guards counted the number of prisoners in each cell between six and seven a.m., while night counts were made between 8:30 and 9:00 p.m. Privileged

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prisoners brought the meals to the cells, without seeing the occupants.

19. Prison guards, who worked in two shifts, belonged to the Militia prior to January 1953, at which time they were made corporals in the Securitate.

The Ghencea Prison

20. The Ghencea prison, or Penitenciarul Rahovai, is about three kilometers from Bucharest on the Alexandria road past the Calea Rahovei. Ten large barracks, accommodating 200 to 250 men each, and six to eight barracks for women constitute the prison compound, which is surrounded by a wooden fence with observation towers. The administration barracks are located in a barbed wire enclosure outside the fence.
21. In 1953 Ghencea was extremely crowded, mostly with common criminals and undesirable elements. From March 1953 political prisoners held there were transferred elsewhere.
22. The meager diet of the Ghencea inmates consisted of 250 grams of bread, some coffee, soup and a small quantity of corn daily.

Capul Midia Labor Camp

23. In 1952-1953 Capul Midia labor camp was crowded with political prisoners working on the Danube-Black Sea canal. During this winter many prisoners died as a result of malnutrition, overwork and poor living conditions.
24. [redacted] prisoners who worked on the canal project were treated in an especially sadistic manner until an early 1953 investigation of the situation entailed the dismissal of several guards and commandants.
25. In April 1953, all foreigners, numbering about 50, working on the canal were required to register and were subsequently transferred to Margineni prison.

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Margineni Prison

26. The Margineni prison, located about twenty kilometers west of Ploesti, is about two kilometers from the railroad station of Ion Luca Caragiale (Margineni). The prison compound comprises a number of buildings and sheds

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housing the carpentry shops and timber storage areas. It is surrounded by a brick wall about 2.5 meters high, topped with barbed wire and with observation towers situated every 30 or 40 meters. There is a searchlight in each tower, and the tower sentries are armed with rifles or submachine guns.

27. Superficial searches were effected daily in the cells, usually after the prisoners had left for work.
28. Although cigarettes, fish, fruits and some clothing were available at free market prices in the canteen, inmates on good behavior could also receive monthly gift parcels to a five kilogram maximum weight and parcels brought by relatives on their monthly visits. Prisoners were separated from visitors by a guard.
29. With the exception of the aged, the sick and the privileged, most of the prisoners worked in the various carpentry shops, which during 1953 produced thousands of ammunition boxes, green ammunition cupboards and various pieces of furniture. Inmates helped to transfer the products to trucks for transport to the Margineni railroad station. Inmates who fulfilled their norms received an average monthly wage of 400 lei, of which from fifteen to thirty percent was deposited to a savings account for payment upon their release.
30. In 1953 there were approximately 1,200 to 1,300 prisoners at Margineni, who, with the exception of 200 to 250 foreign prisoners, were Rumanian political offenders. Of the foreign prisoners, fifty were held in isolated cells serving long sentences, and 100 to 150 were in communal cells and worked in the carpentry shops. Some 50 of them were housed with the criminals until 1953 when they were segregated.
31. The following are the legends for the attached sketches of the detention rooms in the Ministry of the Interior, and Malmaison, Jilava and Margineni prisons:
 - a. Sketch No. 1: The detention rooms in the building of the Ministry of the Interior.
 1. Str. Academiei
 2. Corridors
 3. Prisoners' cells
 4. Prisoners' cells
 5. Washrooms
 6. Toilets
 7. Hall
 8. Offices
 9. Elevator
 10. Showers
 11. Staircase

The Ministry building

 12. Str. Academiei
 13. Detention rooms (figures 1 - 11)
 14. Open area
 15. Str. Wilson

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Prisoners' cells (figure 3 above)

- 16. Bed
- 17. Table and chairs
- 18. Cell door

Prisoners' cells (figure 4 above)

- 19. Beds
- 20. Table and chairs
- 21. Washroom and toilets
- 22. Cell door

b. Sketch No. 2: The Malmaison Prison

- 1. Villa, with castle-like towers
- 2. Direction of Isvor bridge
- 3. Calea Plevnei
- 4. Apartment houses
- 5. Photography shop
- 6. Entrance to prison
- 7. Entrance gate to courtyard

Prison building "A" (facing the street):

- 8. Showers
- 9. Toilets
- 10. Corridors
- 11. Exit to courtyard
- 12. Prison cells
- 13. Offices
- 14. Exits to courtyard
- 15. Courtyard

Prison building "B"

- 16. Prison cells
- 17. Corridors
- 18. Showers and toilets
- 19. Staircase
- 20. Staircase and offices
- 21. Military barracks

c. Sketch No. 3: The Jilava Prison

- 1. Cell No. 32 (for women)
- 2. Cell No. 31 (for women)
- 3. Cell No. 30 (for women)
- 4. Cells for male prisoners
- 5. Closed corridor
- 6. Corridor
- 7. Entrance to prison buildings
- 8. Enclosed prisoners' courtyard
- 9. Kitchen and services
- 10. The "Reduite" fort (prisoners' cells)
- 11. Showers

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d. Sketch No. 4: The Margineni Prison

1. Road to Margineni railroad station
2. Main entrance to prison area
3. Prison administration building
4. Timber storage shed
5. Guard post
6. Entrance to inner prison area
7. Workshops for wood polishing
8. Visitor's room
9. Packing and dispatch department
10. Workshops for wood polishing
11. Shops for tinsmith and production of wooden barrels
12. Shops for tinsmith and production of wooden barrels
13. Prison courtyard
14. Carpentry shops
15. Prison building
16. Inner courtyard for political prisoners
17. Mechanics' shops
18. Mechanics' shops
19. Carpentry shops (production of glues)
20. Toilets
21. Storage area for semi-finished carpentry products
22. Bakery
23. Carpentry shops where political prisoners work
24. Carpentry shop
25. Carpentry shop
- 26, 27, and 28. Main production halls of the carpentry section
29. Outer courtyard, with sheds and open-air timber storage.

e. Sketch No. 5: The Margineni Prison

Ground floor

1. Hall
2. Entrance gate
3. Staircase
4. Cells of political prisoners
5. Corridors
6. Kitchen exit
7. Kitchen
8. Mess hall
9. Isolation cell
10. Washrooms and dispensary
11. Washrooms and dispensary
12. Washrooms and dispensary
13. Prisoners' cells
14. Toilets
15. Prisoners' cells
16. Prisoners' cells

First floor

17. Cell No. 8
18. Cell No. 7
19. Cell No. 6
20. Cell No. 5
21. Staircase
22. Cell No. 11
23. Cell No. 4
24. Cell No. 3
25. Cell No. 2
26. Cell No. 1

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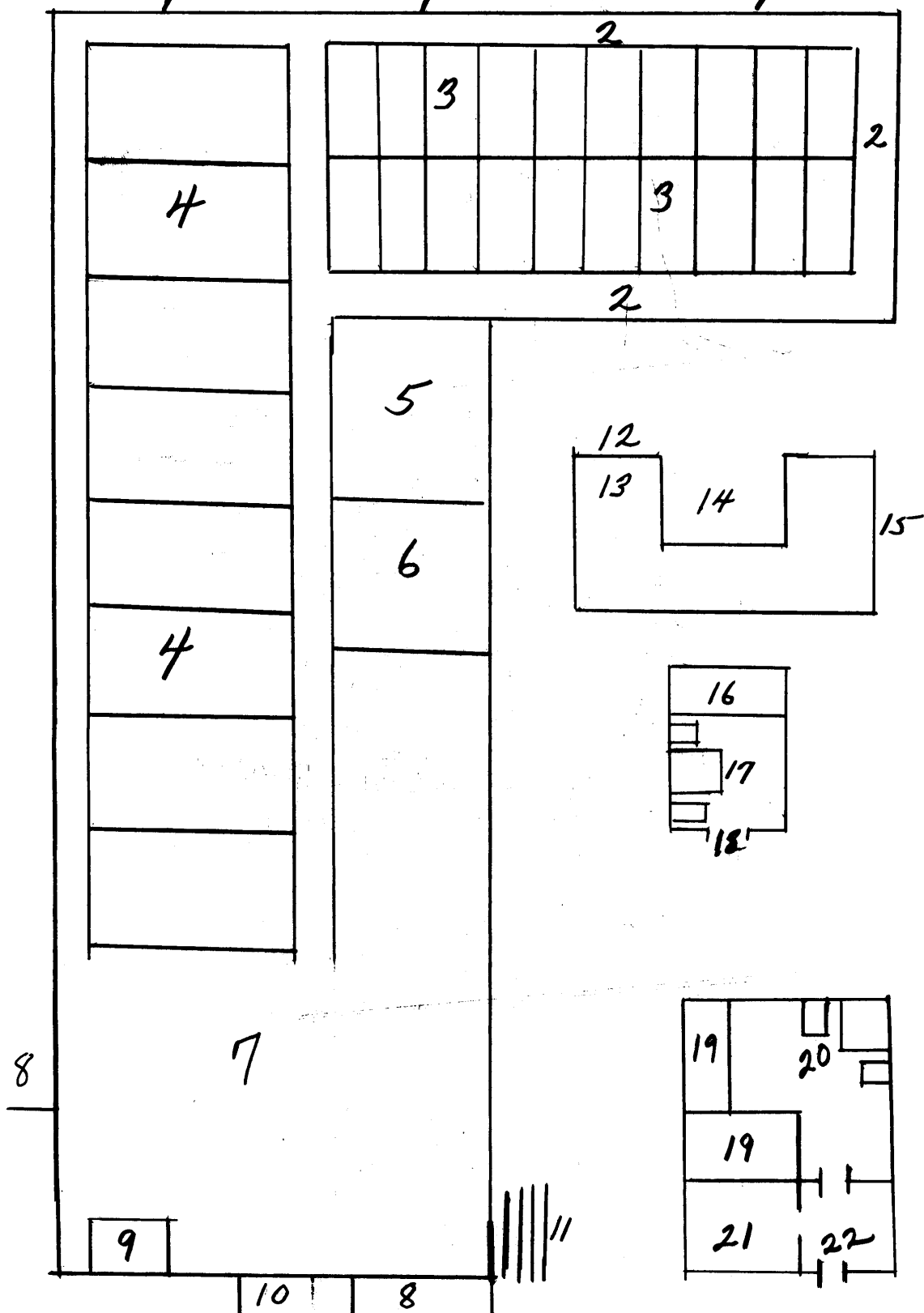
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Sketch No. 1: Detention rooms in the building of the Ministry of the Interior



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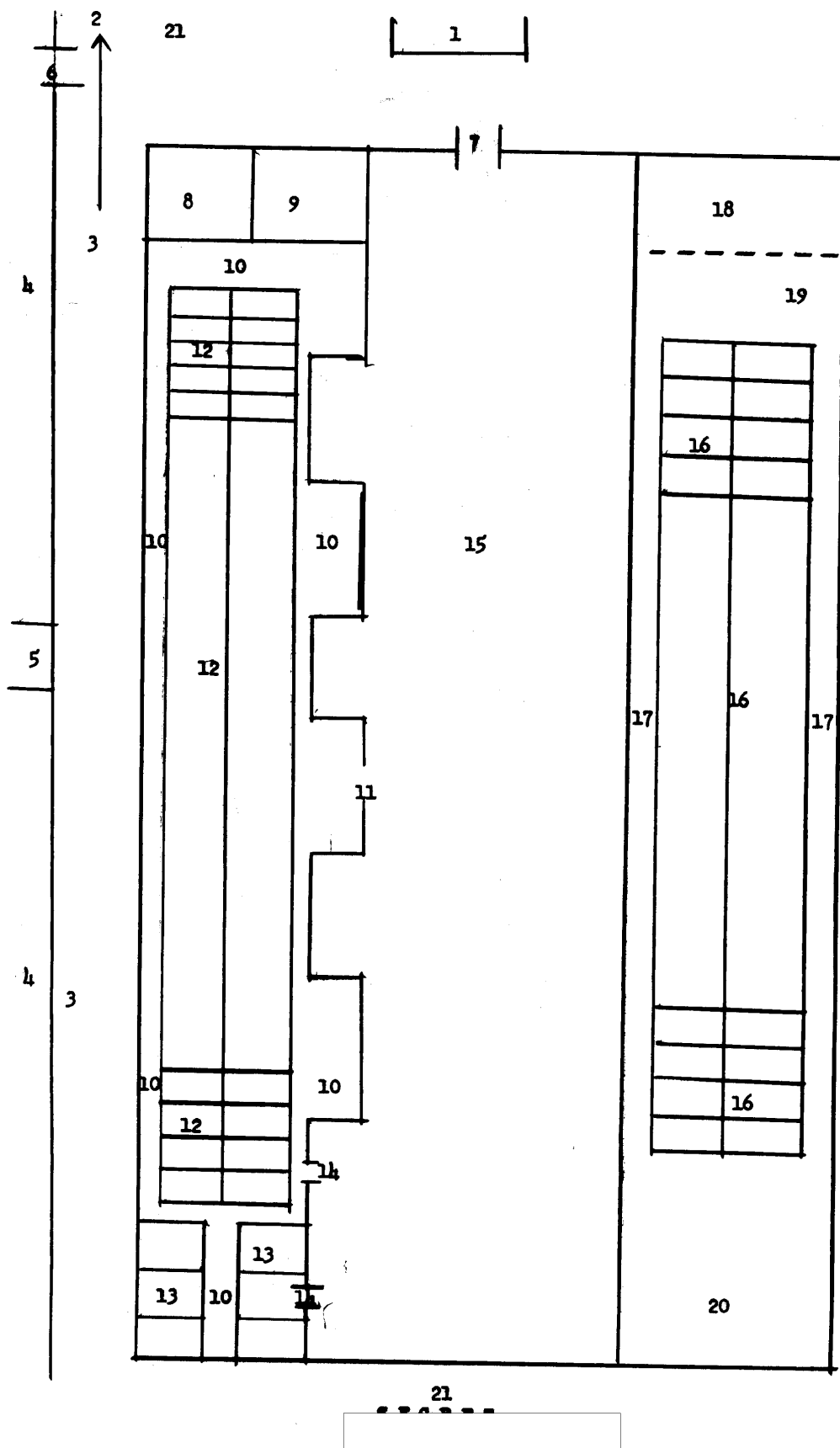
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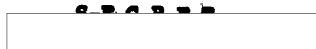
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Sketch No. 2: The Malmaison Prison



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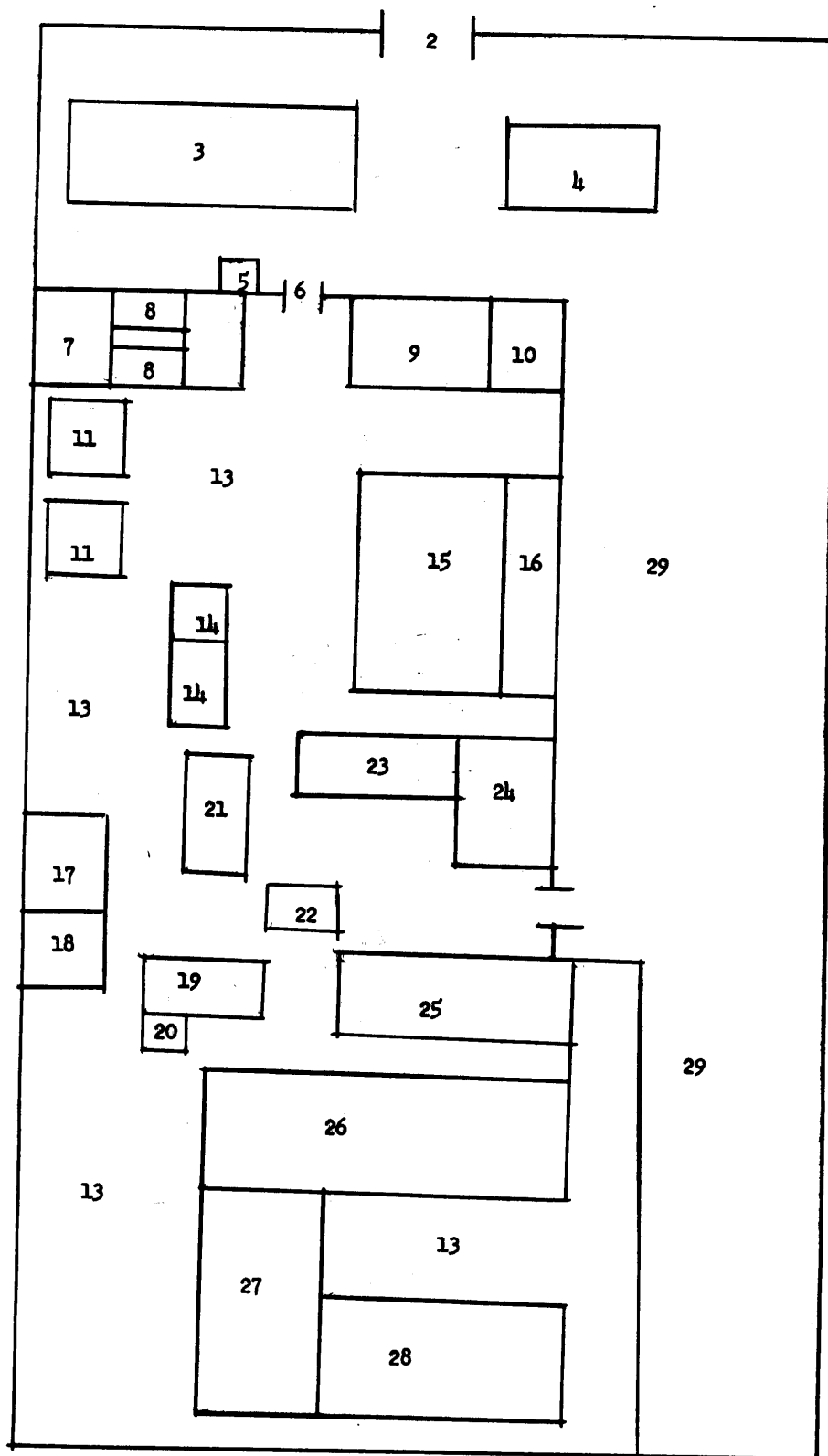
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Sketch No. 4: The Margineni Prison



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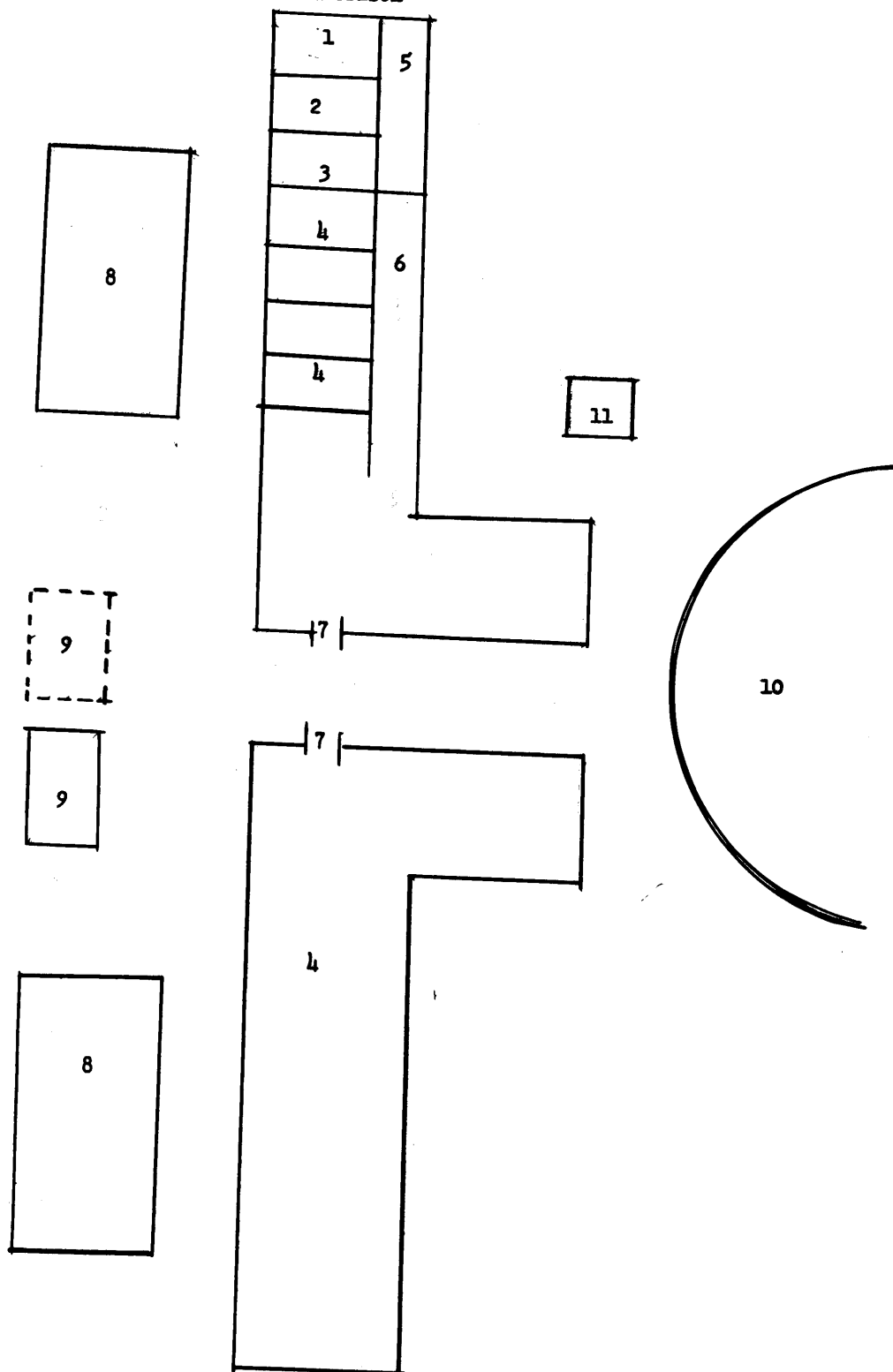
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Sketch No. 3: The Jilava Prison



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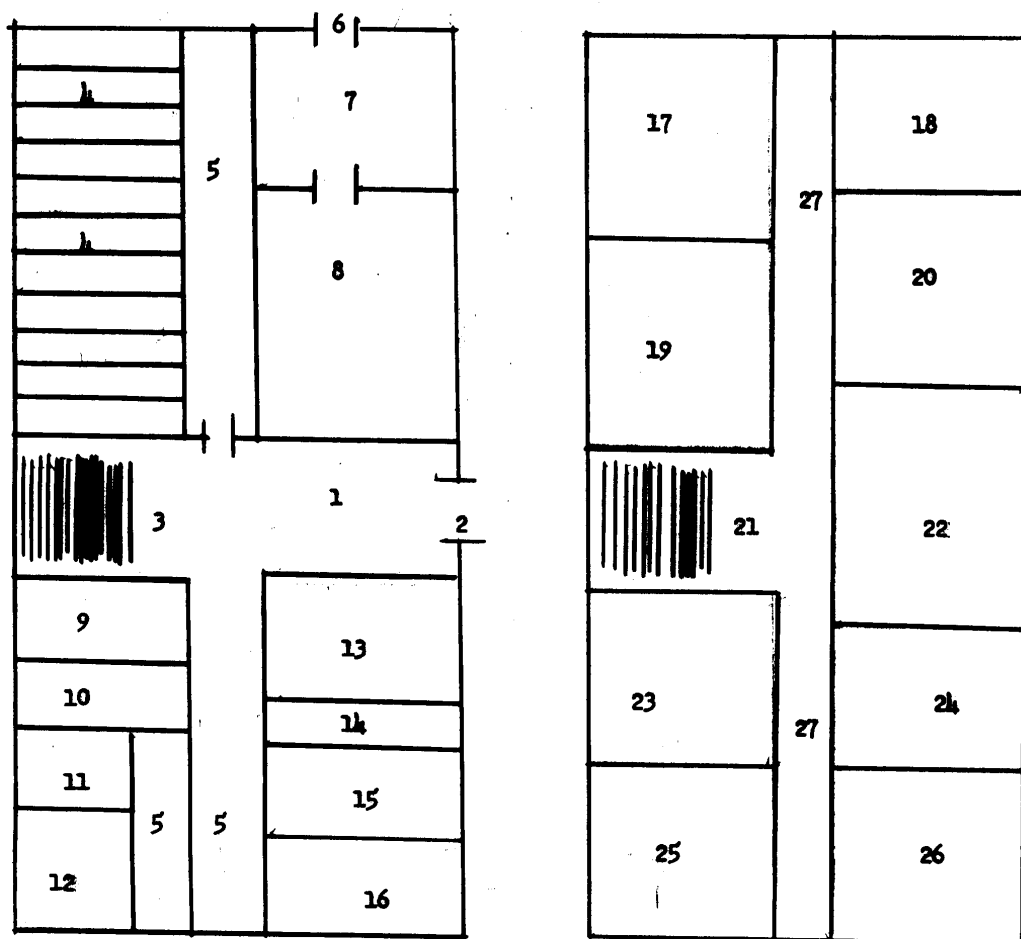
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Sketch No. 5: The Margineni Prison



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